



# Annual Consumer Confidence Report on the Quality of Tap Water at North Fort Hood (2000)

## Introduction

This is an annual report on the quality of water delivered by Fort Hood. Under the "Consumer Confidence Reporting Rule" of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), community water systems are required to report this water quality information to the consuming public. Presented in this report is information on the source of our water, its constituents and the health risks associated with any contaminants.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least

small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

**We continually monitor the drinking water for contaminants. Our water is safe to drink;** however, some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be at greater risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are also available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Fort Hood purchases treated drinking water for North Fort Hood from Gatesville Regional Water Supply. The source of the water is Belton Lake, a surface water supply. The purpose of the lake is for flood control and conservation (water supply). Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission will be reviewing all of Texas' drinking water sources over the next two years.

## Monitoring of Your Drinking Water

Because Gatesville Regional Water Supply is our supplier, they perform the majority of the state required monitoring and testing. Their test results are enclosed. In addition, Fort Hood checks and maintains the chlorine level and pH levels. We also sample for coliform bacteria and fecal coliform bacteria. Finally, the state takes unannounced quarterly samples. This water quality report is a consolidation of the test results from all three organizations.

## Important Terms

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)**- The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)**- The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Treatment Technique (TT)** - Required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Action Level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Parts Per Million (ppm)** - a unit of measure equivalent to milligrams per liter, or a single penny in \$10,000

**Parts Per Billion (ppb)** - a unit of measure equivalent to micrograms per liter, or a single penny in \$10,000,000

**Milligrams Per Liter (mg/l)** – a unit of measure that represents 1 milligram of a substance in 1 liter of water

**Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)** – this water quality report

**Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)** - Federal law which sets forth drinking water regulations

**pH** – amount of Hydrogen ions in solution on a logarithmic scale of 1 to 14, with neutral being 7

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - a measure of turbidity in water

**Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)** - byproducts of drinking water disinfection

**Level Found** - laboratory analytical result for a contaminant; this value is evaluated against an MCL or AL to determine compliance.

**Range** - the range of the highest and lowest analytical values of a reported contaminant. For example, the range of reported analytical detections for an unregulated contaminant may be 10.1 ppm (lowest value) to 13.4 ppm (highest value). EPA requires this range to be reported.

## Gatesville Regional Water Supply Results of Detected Contaminants 2000 Reporting Period

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS				
Constituent	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limit	Turbidity Limits	Source of Constituent
Turbidity (NTU)	0.41	100.0%	*	Soil Runoff
* Turbidity should never exceed 5 NTU, and should not exceed 0.5 NTU in at least 95% of the samples in any month.				

RESULTS OF LEAD AND COPPER AT RESIDENTIAL WATER TAPS (1998)					
Constituent	The 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level	Action Level	Source of Constituent	
Lead (ppb)	2.1	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits	
Copper (ppm)	0.095	0	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives	
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS					
Constituent	Highest	Range of	MCL	MCLG	Source of Constituent

	Level Found	Detected Levels			
Barium (ppm)	0.055	0.055-0.055	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	0.2	0.2-0.2	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Additive that promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	0.26	0.07-0.64	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

#### SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Constituent	Highest Average Found	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Source of Constituent
Atrazine (ppb)	0.28	0.28-0.28	3	3	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

#### THM

Constituent	Average of Sampling Points	Range of Detected Levels	MCL	MCLG	Source of Constituent
Total Trihalo-methanes (ppb)	23.63	20.4 – 28.1	100	--	By-product of drinking water chlorination

#### UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Constituent	Average of Sampling Points	Range of Detected Levels	Reason for Monitoring
Chloroform	5.28	3.8 – 7.12	Helps EPA determine where certain contaminants occur and if they need to be regulated.
Bromoform	2.55	1.87 – 2.6	Helps EPA determine where certain contaminants occur and if they need to be regulated.
Bromodichloro-methane	7.09	7.3 – 9.88	Helps EPA determine where certain contaminants occur and if they need to be regulated.
Chlorodibromo-methane	3.07	6.15 – 9.04	Helps EPA determine where certain contaminants occur and if they need to be regulated.

#### TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

Constituent	Highest Monthly % of Positive Samples	MCL	Source of Constituent
Total Coliform Bacteria	0.0	*	Naturally present in the environment
* Presence of coliform bacteria in 5% or more of the monthly samples.			

### Information on Lead

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead and copper in drinking water than the general population. Fort Hood met the initial federal requirements for lead and copper concentrations in our distribution system and now collects 30 samples every 3 years. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, let water run for 30 to 60 seconds when the water has been standing in the pipes for more than 6 hours, and use only cold water for cooking, drinking, and making baby formula. Additional information is available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### Detected Contaminants

We constantly monitor for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. The

table lists only those contaminants that had some level of detection. Many other contaminants have been

analyzed also, but were not present or were below the detection limits of the lab equipment. EPA requires different reporting methodologies for different contaminants. A brief explanation of our reporting methodologies for each detected contaminant is provided below:

*Total Coliform Bacteria* – While not disease-causing organisms, they are indicators of microbial contamination because they are easily detected and may be associated with other microbes capable of causing disease. During 2000, North Fort Hood had three incidents of a positive coliform detected during initial testing; however, the repeat samples taken for verification testing came back negative for all three samples. EPA requires us to report the highest monthly number of verified positive samples. As presented in the table above, we had a total of zero verified positive samples. These results were reported to the Texas Department of Health, as required, and no additional follow-up action was required.

*Barium* - EPA requires us to report the highest level detected (0.055 ppm)

*Copper* - EPA requires us to report the highest level detected (0.095 ppm)

*Flouride* - EPA requires us to report the highest level detected (0.2 ppm)

*Lead* - EPA requires us to report the highest level detected (2.1 ppb)

*Nitrate* - EPA requires us to report the highest level detected (0.26 ppm).

*Atrazine* - EPA requires us to report the highest level detected (0.28 ppb)

*Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)* - EPA requires us to report the yearly average detected (23.63 ppb)

*Turbidity* – EPA requires us to report the highest average monthly value, (.41 NTU). Turbidity is the measurement of suspended clay, silt, finely divided organic matter, algae, and other microorganisms. Turbidity is regulated because it can provide a medium for bacterial growth. Turbidity is measured in NTU's (nephelometric turbidity units: a measure of the clarity of water.)

### **Information on Cryptosporidium, Radon, and Other Contaminants**

Cryptosporidium is naturally present in bodies of water throughout the world. Surface water supplies are particularly vulnerable if they receive runoff from human or animal waste. The Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 participated in the EPA's

Information Collection Rule (ICR) from July 1997 to December 1998. During this 18-month period, the District collected monthly samples to check for Cryptosporidium. The results were that none of these organisms were found in your drinking water.

### **Public Involvement**

The Fort Hood point of contact for questions regarding this CCR is Margaret Brewster at 254-285-5787. We purchase our water from the Gatesville Regional Water Supply. To participate in their meetings, please call the Gatesville City Manager's Office at 254-865-8951. This information is also available on the Fort Hood Directorate of Public Works Web site, at <http://www.dpw.hood.army.mil>.

